

PEOPLE - BEERS

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NEWS

Family first, then harbor

This story is part of an ongoing series about Duxbury's town managers.

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MPG Newspapers

How many people can say they have had the same job for almost 30 years? Don Beers can.

In 1978, Beers' mother read an ad in the paper for an assistant harbor-master in Duxbury. As Beers recalls, he walked into the harbormaster's office inquiring about the job. "Are you here for the job," he was asked. "Yes," he replied. He was tossed the keys and told to get started. He has been manning the post ever since.

Beers was attending Northeastern University in Boston, working toward a job in the Federal Fish and Wildlife Agency, when he took the position of harbormaster. He was officially appointed at the ripe young age of 22. He had always been interested in law enforcement, fishery and being able to serve people.

"I found my niche," he said. "It has



been a really nice ride. I am a very, very happy person."

Growing up in Marshfield, Beers was familiar with Duxbury and wasted no time making the town his home, as well. He married his high school sweetheart, Amy, and they raised three sons – Joshua, 23, Jake, 21, and Adam, 18 – in Duxbury.

As dedicated to his job as he is, he said, he is even more committed to his family.

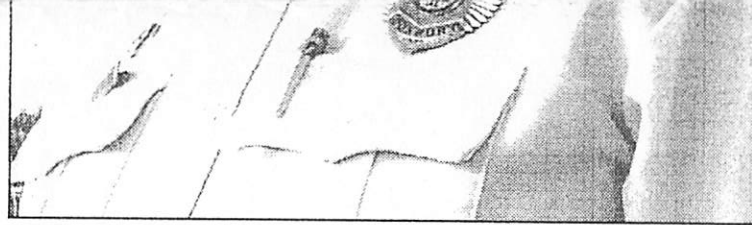
All three of his sons participated in high school athletics and earned academic or athletic scholarships to attend college. Joshua, a senior at Quinnipiac College in Connecticut, plans to attend law school. Jake is pursuing a business degree at Assumption College in Worcester, where he is also a wide receiver for the Greyhounds football team. Adam, a 2006 Duxbury graduate, has been recruited to play baseball for Assumption College this fall.

"I am very committed to my family," Beers said. "The boys always took in sports, and I always take time to see them play."

Beers is as proud of his family as he is of his town, and has kept a watchful eye on both over the years.

The Beers are a very active family – they ski a lot in the winter, and Don and Amy take weekend trips to see their boys play their sports at college.

Working at the beach and on the water makes the land that much more appealing to Don. He says he enjoys



Staff photo/Andria Farrell

Harbormaster Don Beers patrols Duxbury's waters.

"I am not envious of having weekends off. It makes my job that much more important."

**– Don Beers,
Duxbury harbormaster**

going to Vermont to ski, or hitting the road to see his boys play.

"I am not envious of having weekends off," he said. "It makes my job that much more important."

Beers admits he has a wonderful job. It keeps him on his toes. The summers and especially the weekends are cause for high stress, but he thrives off it. After nearly 30 years on the job, he said, he knows what to look for before it even happens.

Beers has certain perks with his job.

"I don't commute, and I enjoy the view," he said.

He is relaxed and calm. He doesn't like confrontation. Rather than write

a citation or issue a violation when someone is not following the rules, he simply asks them to slow down, or wear a life jacket. He is an educator and an ambassador, not a warden.

He patrols the open water in a boat that makes his job easy by telling him the depth of water, marking the objects around him, and showing the direction he is going. After 30 years, he has learned to do all those calculations in his head. The waterfront has changed, beach activities have changed, tides have changed, but Beers has remained.

"I found something I enjoyed," he said, "and I worked hard to get and keep a job like this."